

the M. D. degree, as to their approval or non-approval of certain types of health insurance.*

The text of a questionnaire post card (not yet mailed at this writing) has been prepared and may contain the following queries:

1. Shall the California Medical Association endorse any legislative change in the present system of medical practice? *Yes. No.*

(If your answer to No. 1 is "No," do not answer No. 2 and No. 3.)

2. Are you in favor of compulsory health insurance? *Yes. No.*

3. Are you in favor of voluntary health insurance? *Yes. No.*

(If your answer to No. 3 is "Yes," answer (a), (b), and (c).)

(a) Voluntary health insurance under a plan carried on by the State of California? *Yes. No.*

(b) Voluntary health insurance carried on by lay companies under legislative control? *Yes. No.*

(c) Voluntary health insurance carried on by some form of organization of licensed physicians of California created by legislation? *Yes. No.*

4. Are you a member of the California Medical Association? *Yes. No.*

* * *

A Full Vote Should Be Cast.—What the ballots will reveal to the officers and members of the California Medical Association, we do not know. The attention of members is called to the questionnaire because it is important that as large a vote as possible may be secured. The officers of the Association should certainly know the reaction of its members, and, in the present instance, also the points of view of licensed doctors of medicine in California who do not hold membership in the California Medical Association. Members are urged to send in their ballots, after receiving and considering the questionnaire, as promptly as possible.

TRIBUTE TO LOS ANGELES NURSES BY PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

A Deserved Tribute.—In a recent conference, Dr. George Parrish, Health Officer of the City of Los Angeles, showed the editor a copy of the letter given below, in which President Franklin D. Roosevelt, himself a victim, as is well known, of poliomyelitis, pays deserved tribute to those who, like good soldiers, in the outbreak of that disease in Los Angeles County, in 1934, bravely carried on their duties in the Los Angeles County Hospital at great risk to themselves; an important suggestive fact attested by the large number of nurses still invalided.† CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE gladly reproduces in facsimile President Roosevelt's words of appreciation, and commends their consideration to the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles; for today that Board has the responsibility as

well as the power of properly caring for those afflicted nurses who, in a time of exceptional stress, and under most overcrowded and disheartening conditions, rendered such valiant service to the citizens of Los Angeles County.

The letter of President Roosevelt is as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1935.

My dear Doctor Parrish:

It has just come to my attention that some thirty-eight nurses, victims of an infantile paralysis epidemic in Los Angeles, are being cared for in the Los Angeles General Hospital and in the hospital of Physicians and Surgeons in Glendale. My heart goes out to these young sufferers — living martyrs to their unselfish devotion to the nursing profession. I should greatly appreciate it if you would convey to each of them an expression of my fellow feeling for them in the sacrifice they have made and are making.

Any words of mine seem feeble indeed in the face of their affliction; and yet, I cannot restrain the impulse to record my appreciation of their heroism. Because of their suffering the suffering of others was alleviated. They will ever be held in honored reverence for their unselfish ministrations.

Very sincerely yours,



Doctor George Parrish,
Health Officer of the City of Los Angeles,
116 Temple Street,
Los Angeles, California.

SYLVATIC PLAGUE IN CALIFORNIA

Distribution of Plague Among Wild Rodents of the Pacific Coast.—In the current number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE appears an article by Dr. K. F. Meyer, Director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, University of California, in which he outlines, in quite an interesting manner, how far afield—both geographically and scientifically—the investigations of the distribution of *Bacillus pestis* infection have taken both Federal and State health authorities. In previous issues this subject has been considered several times, references to articles in this JOURNAL having been printed on page 265 of the May, 1934, magazine; the June number of the same year containing an article on "Selvatic Plague—Its Present Status in California"—a paper submitted at that time in response to our request.

In the article by Meyer and Eddie on page 399, the authors use the preferential spelling, "sylvatic" of the Oxford Dictionary instead of "selvatic"; the word sylvatic or selvatic referring to plague as found in wild rodents, in contrast to plague as observed in rats, domesticated as it were, in rural or urban centers of human population.

* See October issue, page 305, item 27, and this issue, page 447, item 9.

† See November issue, on page 388, for letter of District Nursing Association, regarding stipends and care given to nurses still incapacitated because of poliomyelitis.